

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 TRSE-00
SSM-03 /129 W

-----009181 180458Z /13

P R 172009Z MAY 78
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1913
INFO NACB COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 HAVANA 1297

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, PORG, CU
SUBJECT: NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

REF: (A) HAVANA 1263, (B) HAVANA 1267

1. SUMMARY: ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA AND ZAIRE ISSUES HAVE NOT YET BEEN RAISED IN NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING BUREAU MEETING. UNLESS MINISTERS BRING NEW INSTRUCTIONS OR CUBANS PERSIST IN PUSHING EXTREMIST POSITIONS, THESE ISSUES ARE UNLIKELY TO BE RAISED DIRECTLY. ON OTHER HAND, INDIA, YUGOSLAVIA, AND OTHER "MODERATE" PARTICIPANTS ARE REPORTEDLY HAVING SOME SUCCESS IN SOFTENING HARD-LINE POSITIONS ON MIDDLE EAST, SAHARA, AND "DEFINITION OF NON-ALIGNMENT." END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADORS/EXPERTS WORKING GROUPS CONTINUED MEETING MAY 15 AND UNTIL 2200 LOCAL TIME, MAY 16. BY EVENING MAY 17, WORKING GROUPS SHOULD BE FINISHED WITH PREPARATION OF DRAFT FINAL DOCUMENT FOR MINISTERIAL SCRUTINY. MINISTERIAL MEETING BEGINS THURSDAY, MAY 18, AND ENDS AT 1900, MAY 20.

3. ON QUESTION OF ORGANIZATION FOR MINISTERIAL (SEE REF A), COORDINATING BUREAU WILL BE CHAIRED BY CUBA, WITH
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SRI LANKA, NIGERIA AND YUGOSLAVIA SERVING AS VICE-PRESIDENTS. JAMAICA WILL BE RAPPOREUR. POLITICAL COMMISSION WILL BE CHAIRED BY ANGOLA, WITH IRAQ SERVING AS VICE-PRESIDENT. INDIA WILL CHAIR ECONOMIC COMMISSION WITH NIGER IN VICE-PRESIDENCY.

4. ACTION IN WORKING GROUPS, AFTERNOON MAY 15, AND ALL

DAY, MAY 16, FOCUSED ON CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS (SOME SOURCES MENTION TWELVE MAJOR AMENDMENTS) TO DRAFT FINAL DOCUMENT PREPARED BY CUBANS IN THEIR CAPACITY AS HOST. CUBAN DOCUMENT PURPORTEDLY CONTAINS CONSIDERABLE INFLAMMATORY "ANTI-IMPERIALIST" RHETORIC, BUT ALLEGEDLY IS RELATIVELY MODERATE ON CERTAIN ISSUES (SUCH AS MIDDLE EAST) ON WHICH CUBANS HAVE PREVIOUSLY TAKEN EXTREMELY HARD LINE.

5. AFTERNOON WORKING GROUP SESSIONS, MAY 15, APPARENTLY BEGAN WITH CONTINUED EXCHANGES BETWEEN ALGERIA AND MOROCCO/MAURITANIA ON DESIRABILITY OR LACK OF DESIRABILITY OF MAINTAINING SAHARA ISSUE ON AGENDA (SEE REF A). YUGOSLAVS BELIEVE THAT FINAL OUTCOME OF THIS DEBATE WILL BE DECISION TO INCLUDE BRIEF MENTION IN DRAFT FINAL DOCUMENT ENDORSING UN RESOLUTIONS AND RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION IN SAHARA. INDIANS BELIEVE THAT, IN ADDITION, THERE MAY BE GENERAL DECLARATION AGAINST FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT, BUT NO ONE APPEARS TO BELIEVE THAT FRENCH WILL BE SINGLED OUT AS ALGERIANS AND POLISARIO APPARENTLY DESIRE (SEE REF B). (FRENCH HAVE HEARD THAT ALGERIANS HAD WANTED TO PRESENT OMNIBUS AMENDMENT ATTACHING FRENCH INVOLVEMENT EVERYWHERE IN AFRICA, BUT THAT EFFORT WAS ABANDONED.)

6. MAY 16 SESSIONS REPORTEDLY WERE CHARACTERIZED BY SHARP DISCUSSIONS ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTION AND "DEFINITION OF NON-ALIGNMENT". ON MIDDLE EAST, SYRIA TABLED AMENDMENT
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SHARPENING CUBAN DRAFT'S LINE ON SEPARATE PEACE EFFORTS. EGYPTIANS, AS "OBSERVERS", EXERCISED RIGHT OF REPLY AND WERE APPARENTLY SUPPORTED BY MOST OTHER SPEAKERS. (IRAQ APPARENTLY BACKED SYRIAN EFFORT.) FYI EGYPTIANS CLAIM THAT LANGUAGE OF ORIGINAL CUBAN DRAFT WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THEM, BUT THAT SYRIAN AMENDMENT WAS QUITE TROUBLESOME. END FYI. IN LIGHT OF REACTION, SYRIANS REPORTEDLY WITHDREW THEIR AMENDMENT. YUGOSLAVS BELIEVE THAT DRAFT FOR MINISTERS WILL PROBABLY CONTAIN GENERAL ENDORSEMENT OF GLOBAL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, BUT NO ATTACK ON SADAT'S POSITION. (EGYPTIANS WILL APPARENTLY BE ABLE TO SPEAK AT MINISTERIAL, AND INDIA AND YUGOSLAVIA ARE APPARENTLY PREPARED TO BACK CAIRO.)

7. ON "DEFINITION OF NON-ALIGNMENT" WHICH FIGURES IN CUBAN DRAFT DOCUMENT, MANY "MODERATE" DELEGATIONS ARE APPARENTLY DISTURBED WITH CUBA'S INSISTENCE ON CHARACTERIZING NON-ALIGNED STATUS AS COINCIDENTAL WITH AN "ANTI-IMPERIALIST" AND "ANTI-COLONIALIST" POSTURE. SOME DELS SUCH AS INDIA

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00

SSM-03 /129 W

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P R 172009Z MAY 78

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REPORTEDLY ONLY WANT TO DESCRIBE NON-ALIGNED STATUS AS NON-MEMBERSHIP IN "BIG POWER MILITARY BLOCS." THIS ISSUE APPARENTLY GOES BEYOND "DEFINITION" PARAGRAPH TO GENERAL RHETORIC USED BY CUBANS IN THEIR DRAFT TEXT. DELS SUCH AS ARGENTINA HAVE REPORTEDLY RESISTED CUBAN EFFORTS TO PICTURE LATIN AMERICAS AS A COLONIAL ENCLAVE AND INDIA HAS OPPOSED CUBAN ONE-SIDED CRITICISM OF WESTERN INDIAN OCENA BASES (E.G., DIEGO GARCIA). "MODERATE" DELS ARE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED THAT CUBANS HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY PUSHING FOR ADOPTION OF THEIR EXTREME LANGUAGE AND SOME SPECULATE THAT, ON MAY 17, HAVANA, IN ORDER TO APPEAR REASONABLE, MAY SOFTEN ITS POSITION IN ORDER TO FACILITATE AGREEMENT ON DRAFT DOCUMENT FOR MINISTERS. (FYI GRANMA, MAY 17, STATES THAT THERE ARE "NO DIFFERENCES THAT CAN BLOCK NORMAL DEVELOPMENT OF WORKING GROUP LABORS." END FYI.) SOME DELEGATIONS FEEL THAT, IF CUBA DOES NOT DROP ITS EFFORTS TO PUSH "ANTI-IMPERIALIST" POSITIONS, OTHER DELS WILL BRING UP HORN OF AFRICA - THUS "MODERATES" CONCLUDE THAT CUBANS WILL SOON TONE DOWN THEIR EFFORTS.

8. ON OTHER POLITICAL ISSUES, NORTH KOREANS ARE REPORTEDLY LOBBYING FOR TOUGH LANGUAGE ON KOREAN ISSUE, BUT YUGOSLAVS BELIEVE THAT DELHI AND COLOMBO LANGUAGE WILL SIMPLY BE
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REPEATED. PUERTO RICO AND US BASES IN PACIFIC HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN BRIEFLY TOUCHED ON IN CORRIDOR CONVERSATION, BUT AGAIN DELHI AND COLOMBO LANGUAGE WILL PROBABLY SERVE AS MODEL.

ON DISARMAMENT, ONLY INFORMATION WE HAVE IS FRENCH REPORT THAT CUBAN TEXT COMPLETELY ECHOES SOVIET POSITION. (FRENCH WANTED ENDORSEMENT OF THEIR EFFORTS TO RESTRUCTURE CCD AND UN DISARMAMENT EFFORTS.)

9. ZAIRE INVASION (IN PART BECAUSE OF LACK OF INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS) AND ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA HAVE NOT YET BEEN RAISED BY ANY DEL. YUGOSLAVS, AND APPARENTLY OTHER "MODERATES", FEEL THAT THESE ARE INTERNAL QUESTIONS WHICH SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DISRUPT NON-ALIGNED UNITY UNLESS CUBANS FORCE ISSUE WITH THEIR OWN EFFORTS TO PRESS THEIR POSITION (SEE PARA 7). YUGOSLAVS MAY PRESENT PAPER AT MINISTERIAL SUGGESTING DEVELOPMENT OF MECHANISM FOR SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES AMONG NON-ALIGNED - WHICH COULD BE PROCEDURAL WAY TO SIDESTEP CONFRONTATION ON ZAIRE AND ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA, SHOULD THESE ARISE.

10. SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES ARE APPARENTLY BEING DISCUSSED, MAY 17.

11. ON ECONOMIC SIDE, A PROPOSAL HAS BEEN MADE CALLING FOR A "SOLIDARITY FUND" FOR NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES IN ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. CUBA HAS SUPPORTED THIS PROPOSAL. IN ADDITION, PROPOSALS FOR THE FORMATION OF A NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES' BANK, ESTABLISHMENT OF A PAYMENTS UNION, AND PROPOSALS FOR INCREASE OF FLOW OF CAPITAL TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE APPARENTLY ON TABLE. THE NON-ALIGNED BANK PROPOSITION, ORIGINALLY SURFACED AT COLOMBO, IS DESCRIBED AS EFFORT TO CIRCUMSCRIBE POWER OF IMF. IN ADDITION, A FOURTEEN POINT HEALTH ACTION PROGRAM, DRAFTED BY CUBA, IS ALSO BEING CIRCULATED.

12. COMMENT: IF CUBA BACKS OFF FROM ITS EXTREMIST RHETORICAL
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DEMANDS, AS EXPECTED, HAVANA WILL PROBABLY BE SPARED ANY CRITICISM IN CONNECTION WITH HORN OF AFRICA AND ZAIRE. ABSENCE OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MOST DELEGATIONS AND THEIR CAPITALS, AND GENERAL DESIRE ON PART OF DELS TO AVOID SPLITTING NAM, WILL WORK IN CUBA'S FAVOR IN THIS REGARD. AT SAME TIME, DEVELOPMENT OF NEW, MORE EXTREMIST NON-ALIGNED POSITIONS WILL BE INHIBITED BY ACTIVISM OF RELATIVELY MODERATE COUNTRIES (SUCH AS YUGOSLAVIA AND INDIA), AND REPORTED BETTER PREPARATION AND INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF SMALLER PARTICIPANTS - BOTH, IN PART, A REFLECTION OF SENSITIVITY TO CUBA'S MORE ASSERTIVE INTERNATIONAL ROLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HAVANA01297
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780208-1051
Format: TEL
From: HAVANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780551/aaaabqnk.tel
Line Count: 217
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 37283e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 HAVANA 1263, 78 HAVANA 1267
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2669311
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE WORKING GROUP MEETINGS
TAGS: PDEV, PORG, SOPN, CU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/37283e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014